

A LETTER OF ADVICE [28.]

TO THE

Petitioning Apprentices.

After the mighty and Gygantic roaring of the *Mobile* of the Fanatick Pig-mies against the Loyal proceedings of the greatest, and best bred part of *London Apprentices*, for no other Reasons, and upon no other Incitements, then that they obstructed the Cabals, and openly protested against the Disloyal proceedings of ill-minded men, and persons disaffected to the King and Kingdom, and offering their Lives and Fortunes to His Majesty in His Just Vindication, the mighty Mountain of their Seditious and Scandalous Reflections, and Tattle, like that in the Fable, which (to the amazement of the Beholders) did belch forth unheard of Groans, and at last, only brought forth the small Body of a *Mouse*; So, This of theirs, after the tedious noise, and roarings of Factious Cabals, and Seditious Pamphlets, that seem'd to threaten no less than the down-fall of those Loyal and Worthy Youths, only produced the Image and Form of a Counter-Address, by the no less Scurrilous then Factious Party of the *Apprentices of London*; which like the *Goliath* of the *Philistines*, defies the Armies of *Cod* and *Israel*; But it is not to be feared, that the Justness of the Cause they resist, and the Honesty of their Antagonists Intentions, will raise up a *David* to Destroy this their Uncircumcised and Unmannerly Champion. And though the same Reasons that were brought against the most Loyal Youths, might with Reason and Impartiality be thrown upon their *Antagonists*. Yet to avoid all manner of Reproach and Scandal, I shall forbear to do it, but content my self to say, that I think it the greatest sauliness imaginable, for so Inconsiderable a Party, and such raw and nonsensical Boys, to be so bold, as to presume to Counsel the Wisest, Justest, and best of Princes; But what means will not men attempt, rather than not attain to their designs; will they not dare to throw aspersions upon Authority, and vilifie the very Throne of Justice, by their Grand Implements of Faction, *Janeway*, *Curtis*, *Care* and *Vile*, and multitudes of the same Stamp and Gang, whose Marks are in their Forheads, and ought to be ihun'd like Infected Persons; For now a days no Plague so Infectious as the Plague of Faction and Fanaticism, that seem even to threaten the downfal of the Nations Tranquility, and none so likely to be Infected as raw Youths in the height of their Bloud, who are apt to embrace the words of a Seditious Teacher for the voice of an *Oracle*; And therefore wisely did the late Rebels instigate persons of such Principles and Conditions to Rebel against the best of Princes, as knowing them to be Resolute on any Design that is dawb'd over with Religion and Liberty; Ingeniously hath a late Author set down the *Apprentices Reformation* in a late *Satyr* against Separatists, whose words I will transcribe at large, as trusting the Judgement of so Learned a Pen, sooner than my own raw Fancy and Judgement; and the rather because it was pen'd before the Petition was so much as thought of, and so cannot be call'd Malice or Envy, but is rather a Prophecy of what we may expect then a *Satyr* on what's past; for thus says that Worthy Author on the Subject.

—“Prentices themselves will have it so;
“They’l roor out *POPERY* what s’ever come,
“It is Decreed; nor shall thy Fate Oh *ROME*
Resist their Vow; They’l do’t to a Hair, for they
Who it upon *Shrove Tuesday* or *May-day*,
Beat an old Bawd, or fright poor Whores they cou’d,
Thought themselves better than their Founder *LUD*,
Have now vast Thoughts, and scorn to set upon
Any Whore less than her of *BABYLON*.
They’re mounted high, contemn the humble Play
of *CAT* or *FOOT-BALL* on a Holiday

And then a little farther by way of Irony, he says,

Go on Brave *HEROES*, and perform the rest,
Increase your Fame each Day a Yard at least,
Till your high Names are grown as Glorious full
As the Four *London Prentices* at th’*BULL*.
So may your goodly Ears still Prickant grow,
And no bold Hair increase to mar the show.

In *Finsbury Fields*; No, ’tis their brave Intent,
VVisely t’advise the KING t’a *PARLIAMENT*;
The VVork in hand they’l disapprove, or back,
And cry i’t’h’*Reformation*, what d’ye Lack?
On they whole Shop-Books write, and yet not know
If *BISHOPS* have a Right Divine, or no?
And can they sweep their Shops and Dores so well,
And for to cleanse a *STATE* as yet not tell?
No, Study and Experience makes them wise,
VVhy should they else watch late, and early rise?
Their wit so flows, that when they think to take
But Sermon-Notes, they oft-times Sermons make.

So may your *Moor-Fields* Pastime never fail,
And all the Towns about keep mighty Ale;
So may You come to sleep in Furr at last,
And some *Smeethmann* when your Days are past;
Your *Funeral Sermons* in six Hours Rehearce,
And *Hrwood* sing you Praise in lofty Verse.

A

Thus

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Thus far this Learned Satyrest (which I challenge any one of their Pensionary Scribes to answer,) hath set down the *Apprentices* blessed Reformation, and therein hath with a Prophetick as well as Poetical strain depicted our present Reformadoes; But it may be objected, that there is not any harm in their Address, and that they do not aspire to the Throne of Majesty; To which I answer thus, Is there no harm in thwarting Authority, and protesting against the Addressees, those true and grateful demonstrations of Loyalty? Is it no harm to Scandalize those Youths, that took the first occasion by way of Address, to re-gain their Reputations, and profess their Loyalty? Is it not harm to disapprove and dislike what His Majesty so much Honours and approves of? If it be not harm (as they will have much ado to prove,) yet I am sure it is the greatest piece of ill manners imaginable; and then on the other hand, who will call it humility, that they approach not to His Majesty with their Address, but rather a just shame flowing from the unmannerliness, if not Injustice of their Cause; for were it good, just and honest, according to the Laws of the Nation, Reason and Civility, why should they be fearful to approach to His Majesty, when all the World that know him, esteem him a Prince that is not a hinderer but an encourager of all things that are honest, and tend to his own and the Nations security; But why he should be loaded by a Petition from the meanest of his Subjects, to counsel him in the greatest of his Affairs, I am not sensible; I should rather think it would better become them to let it alone, or at least I say till their betters had gone before them in this Affair; But alas whither will not the blind zeal of *Faction* hurry the wisest men, and much less the Rabble of Head-strong and unthinking Striplings; But yet notwithstanding all this, you can be so sensible as to pretend to Loyalty, when you visibly detest that very Address of the *Apprentices*, that was so Eminent for Loyalty and Allegiance to the best of Kings; What is your Petition less then tacitly to challenge your *Antagonists* into the Field, to vindicate themselves from your aspersions, and so cause a Rebellion; Therefore as *Apprentices*, I would desire and intreat you, especially those of you, that can pretend to any thing of worthy Birth, or Civil Education, to forbear these proceedings, which if you have but the sence of rational creatures, you cannot but see it will tend to no good; Why should it be said of You in after-ages, that you were headstrong in Villany, and prone to *Faction* & Rebellion? who for the bare notion of Loyalty dare break even the very Laws of Reason and Civility, and spit scandal on the lives of your fellows, in moving so contrary to the Principles of the Loyalty that you pretend to; I assure you I have studied all the reason imaginable, and can find none so sufficient to excuse this your saucy presumption; nay I have taken the advice of graver years, and wiser heads than my own, yet they can put no favourable construction upon your present proceedings, than that you are led away by the specious pretences of ill-minded & disaffected persons, who for their *Zeal to the Cause*, will dare to affront even the Majesty of Heaven; Therefore despise not the poor advice of your fellow *Apprentices*, who desire nothing more then the well-fare of the King and Kingdom, of this City in particular, and in It, You, and all the *Apprentices* besides, hoping that upon better thoughts you will see the evil of your ways, and the unmannerliness of your proceedings; and not pretend to Counsel your Councillours, and teach your Senators wisdom, but steadily to fix your Loyalty to the best of Princes, against all opposers of what Sect or condition soever, and be not led away by Seditious Masters, and more Seditious Teachers, but adhere to the true Church of *England*, which never yet could be scandal'd with that infamous crime of Rebellion; and give and sacrifice your lives and fortunes to His Majesty's Service, in vindication of His Supremacy and your own Allegiance, which that you may do to the Eternal Honour of the rest of the *Apprentices* of this Famous City, is the hearty wishes and endeavours of your Fellow-*Apprentices*, though an utter enemy to your present proceedings; Grant me but a favourable and impartial reading of what is here set down, and then any of you without partiality or malice, give me correction wherein I have transgressed the Laws of the Nation, Reason or Conscience, or the Duty I owe His Majesty, and the Veneration due to this City, which God willing I will do my endeavour to aquit, and so hoping you will see your errors, and recant; I take leave, and remain your loving friend as you prove; Farewel.